



Emerging Cybertraps

Apple AirTags

Frederick S. Lane

Policy Best Practices Coalition
Webinar
13 January 2022

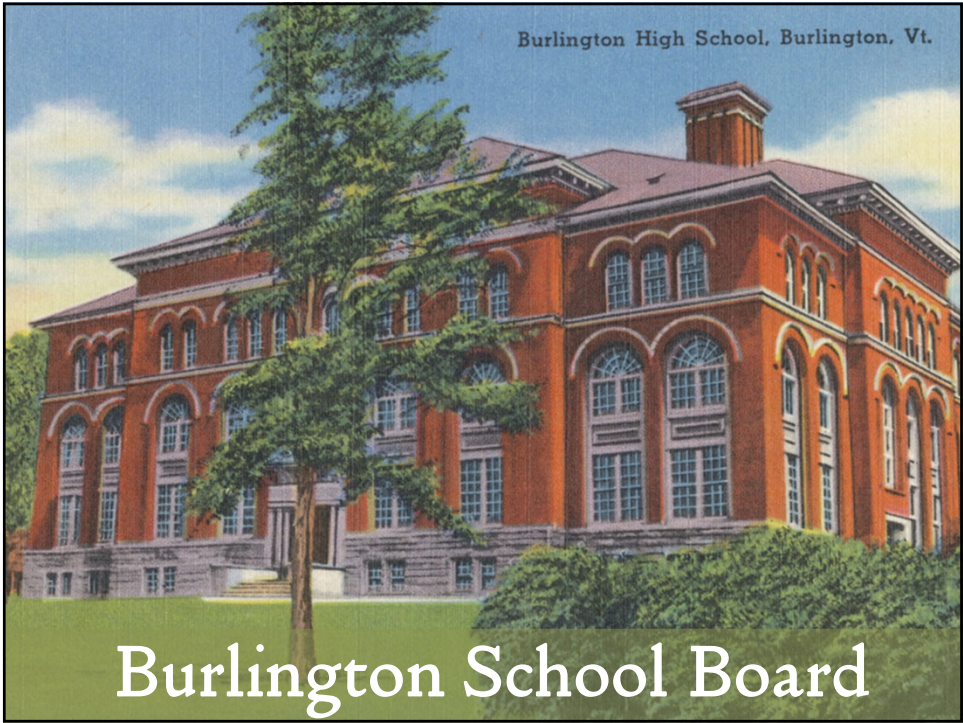


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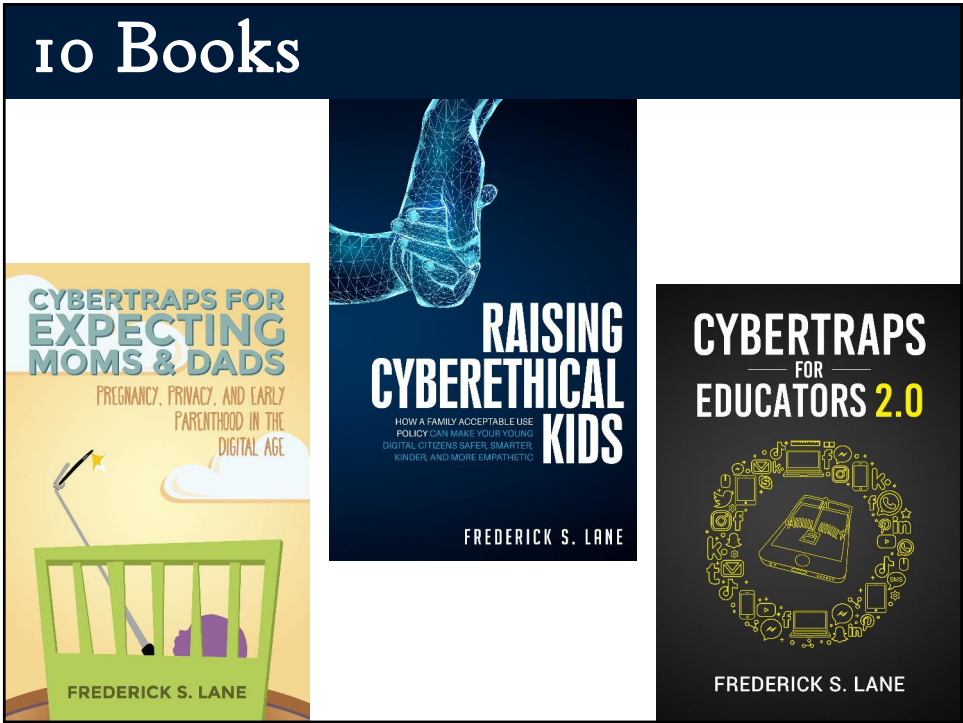


Introduction and Overview

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The Center for Cyberethics



The Center for
CYBERETHICS



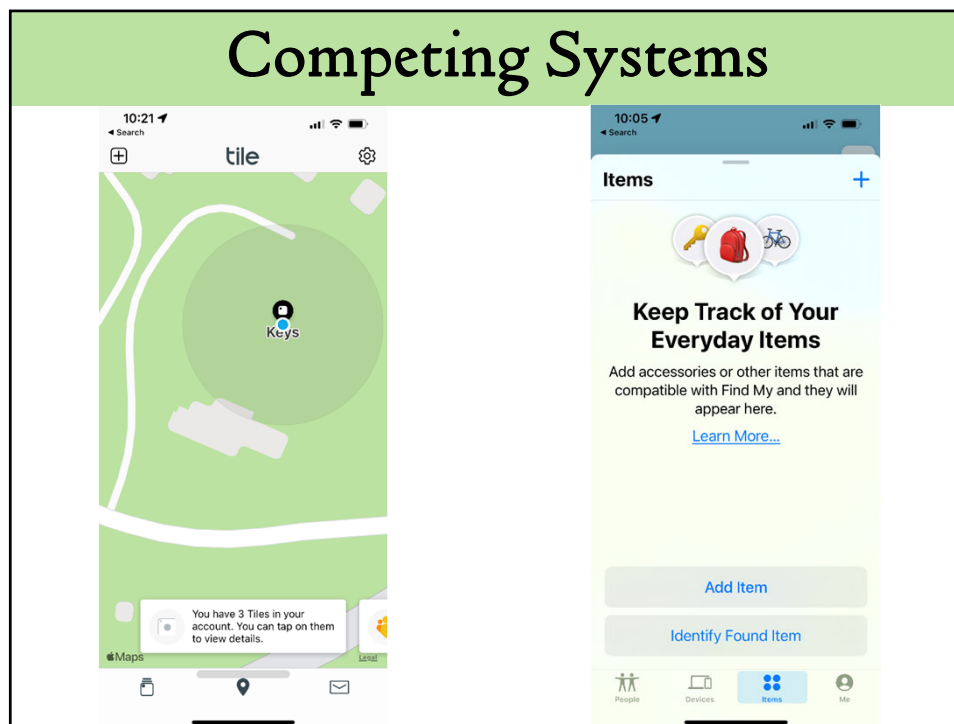
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Apple AirTags

- Released in May 2021
- Designed to Take on Tile
- Retail for \$29 each or a pack of 4 for \$99
- Accessories to attach to objects sold separately

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How AirTags Work

- Each AirTag Is About the Size of a Quarter
- Battery Powered (up to a year)
- Equipped with Two Location Technologies
 - Bluetooth
 - Ultra-Wideband Radio

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Apple Location Ecosystem

- AirTags will connect to any passing Apple iPhone, using an encrypted signal
- iPhone uses cellular data or WiFi to report location to “Find My” service
- Owner of lost item can see location in iCloud
- Within range, UWB radio provides both distance and direction to AirTag

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Anti-Stalking Protections

- Identity of Apple AirTag Owner Is Known Only to Apple
- “AirTag Is Traveling with You”
- After 72 Hours, Some Beeps
- Protections for Android Users Are Not Fully Implemented

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Misuse Case Scenarios – Schools

- Adult Stalking Adult
- Adult Stalking Child
- Children Bullying / Stalking Children (or Adults)
- Misuse of Tracking Info by Teachers or IT Staff

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Policy Considerations

- Can This Type of Device Be Banned on School Campuses?
 - Unlikely, due to size and utility
- Revisions to Acceptable Use Policies
- Emphasize the Criminal Consequences of Misuse
- “It’s Not the Technology, It’s the Behavior”

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